

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES AND PRESENTATION OVERVIEWS

The 7th annual *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity* Forum

Alcohol Policy: Time to Act! Current Research, Policy, and Practical Applications to address Alcohol-Related Harm

Tuesday March 2, 2010; 8:30AM – 4:15PM
North York Memorial Community Hall – 5100 Yonge Street / 3 Park Home Ave.
Toronto, Ontario

1. ***Nancy Langdon, Ottawa Public Health and Chair of the OPHA Alcohol Work Group;
Dr. Norman Giesbrecht, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and an Alcohol: No
Ordinary Commodity Forum planning committee member***

Nancy Langdon is a Program Development Officer, at Ottawa Public Health. In 2009 Nancy served as co-chair of the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion Guidance Document workgroup on substance misuse prevention. Nancy is the current chair of the Ontario Public Health Association Alcohol Workgroup.

Norman Giesbrecht is a Senior Scientist, at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto and affiliated with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. His research includes: impacts of policies on drinking-related harm, assessments of the policy development process, impacts of drinking patterns on trauma and chronic disease, and community-based prevention strategies. He has been involved in several WHO-affiliated projects, and is active in chronic disease prevention organizations in Toronto, as well provincially and nationally. He is chair of the Publications Board, American Public Health Association and co-chair of the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance.

Presentation Title: Reducing the Burden from Alcohol in Ontario – Challenges of an Effective Policy Response

This presentation will draw on experiences of the past as an aid to focusing on present challenges. Action items that have followed from previous Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity Forums as well as current challenges will be addressed in this presentation. This presentation will also address the need for continued efforts in the field of alcohol policy and what roles different groups across the province can play.

This presentation aims to meet the following objectives:

- Emphasize the contribution of alcohol on various other issues in Ontario, both health-related and social
- Address the challenges to reducing the burden from alcohol – both local and provincial
- Building on experience with other health and social issues; it is feasible to overcome these challenges through a coordinated, comprehensive and well-resourced provincial alcohol strategy

2. Dr. Maristela Monteiro, Pan American Health Organization

Dr Maristela Monteiro is the senior advisor for alcohol and substance abuse at the Pan American Health Organization. Dr Monteiro joined PAHO in December 2003, after working for nearly ten years in Geneva at the World Health Organization, coordinating the area of alcohol and substance abuse. She is a medical doctor with a PhD in Psychopharmacology, and the author of over 110 publications in peer reviewed journal articles and books. Dr Monteiro promotes technical cooperation among countries in the Americas on alcohol and other drug policies, programs and services and advocates for evidence based strategies.

Presentation Title: Alcohol and Public Health in the Americas

This presentation will highlight the impact of alcohol consumption on the burden of disease in the region of the Americas (including Latin America and the Caribbean), and discuss the process of developing the WHO global alcohol strategy and the role of Canada.

This presentation aims to meet the following objectives:

- To assist participants in learning more about the relative impact of alcohol consumption in developing countries in the Americas
- To assist participants in learning more about the process of developing alcohol policies at the global and regional levels

3. Dr. Thomas Babor, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Dr. Babor is a Professor and Chairman in the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, University of Connecticut School of Medicine. He holds the University's Physicians Health Service endowed chair in Public Health and Community Medicine. His main areas of academic training are social psychology, social psychiatry, and public health. He is Associate Editor-in-Chief as well as Regional Editor of the international journal, *Addiction*. His research interests include screening, diagnosis, early intervention, and treatment evaluation, as well as policy issues related to alcohol and drug problems. He is the author or co-author of over 140 articles published in peer reviewed scientific journals, and has written or edited more than 15 books and monographs.

Presentation Title: Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: Research and Public Policy

This presentation summarizes the contents of *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity* (second edition) and addresses evidence-informed practices that can be considered at both the provincial and local level to aid in the adoption of alcohol policies.

This presentation aims to meet the following objectives:

- Describe the role of alcohol consumption in the global burden of disease
- Identify ten “best practices” in alcohol control policy
- Describe the public health implications of the global alcohol industry for alcohol consumption trends and alcohol policy

4. Penny Nelligan, Director, Standards, Programs & Community Development Branch, Ministry of Health Promotion

Penny Nelligan is a Public Health Nurse. She has a Master of Science in Community Health Nursing and a faculty appointment in the McMaster University School of Nursing. Penny worked in Public Health for 19 years in a range of roles from field work to program management to Executive Director and in both urban and rural settings. Throughout her career Penny has worked in many ways with people who were often disenfranchised (eg. people living with serious mental health, people living with AIDs, people who were homeless) and whose health is impacted by much broader issues than health care services.

Penny is presently Director of the Standards, Programs and Community Development Branch of Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion and is excited by the opportunity to play a role in creating and implementing the new direction of this ministry as it takes a strong lead in the Health Promotion System in Ontario and believes that that the outcomes will have a positive influence on the health of the people living in Ontario.

Penny has worked at many points in her career in the mental health and addictions area through in-hospital psychiatry and community mental health both in staff and administrative roles in Public Health. She was chair of the board of a mental health case management agency, a member of the advisory committee for an addictions agency and a member of the Mental Health System Design Committee in the City of Hamilton.

Presentation Title: What is Healthy Public Policy? A Provincial Government Perspective

5. Victoria Van Gilst, Niagara Region Public Health

Victoria van Gilst, BA, is a Health Promoter for Niagara Region Public Health working on Substance Misuse Prevention in the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division. She is a graduate from Brock University in Community Health Science and has a graduate certificate in Public Relations from Niagara College.

Presentation Title: Developing Policy at the Municipal Level~ Challenges and Successes Working with Local Government.

This presentation will provide an overview of policy development at the local level highlighting previous initiatives and commenting on both successes and challenges. The presentation will identify opportunities for collaboration and identify future direction of policy development work in Niagara.

This presentation aims to meet the following objectives:

- To provide information about policy development initiatives at the local level.
- To highlight effective practices, lessons learned and opportunities for collaboration.

6. Susan Shepherd, Toronto Public Health

Susan Shepherd is the Manager of the Toronto Drug Strategy Secretariat, the staff team that supports implementation of the City of Toronto's drug strategy. Susan has over 10 years of policy experience with the City of Toronto working in the areas of substance use, poverty and homelessness. She has a B.A. in Psychology and a Masters in Social Work. Prior to joining the City of Toronto, Susan was a front-line worker in the community-based service sector. Susan has spoken extensively at conferences and workshops on evidence-based approaches to reducing the harms of alcohol and other drug use. Susan also teaches a course in harm reduction policy at York University.

Presentation Title: Challenges and Successes Working with Licensed Establishments

This presentation will include an overview of Toronto Drug Strategy initiatives related to the reduction of alcohol-related harms in licenced establishments in Toronto that have been driven by an intersectoral partnership of municipal, provincial, community and business sector stakeholders. Jurisdictional challenges and opportunities for municipalities with respect to alcohol policy will also be discussed.

This presentation aims to meet the following objectives:

- To increase participant's knowledge about the role of municipalities in reducing the harms of alcohol in licenced establishments.
- To increase participant's knowledge about intersectoral collaborations between municipal, community and private sector stakeholders.
- To promote a mutual sharing/learning of related successes and challenges from participants.

7. Andrew Murie, Mothers Against Drunk Driving Canada

Andrew Murie has been MADD Canada's Chief Executive Officer since 1997. His responsibilities include managing the National Office and facilitating national programs and services to its 100 plus chapters.

Andrew's career spans over 30 years within the not for profit sector at local, provincial and national levels. Andrew has a Masters Degree of Management from McGill University, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from McMaster University and a Diploma in Recreation Leadership from Mohawk College.

Presentation Title: Bringing it All Together: MADD Canada Policies

In this presentation Andrew will address current MADD Canada policies that will reduce alcohol-related harms with a strong emphasis on impaired driving.

This presentation aims to meet the following objective:

- Consider policy issues that can be action oriented by public health and other stakeholders

8. Denise DePape, BC Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

Denise De Pape has spent over 20 years in public health, at both provincial and local levels in Ontario, including two municipal governments. In her 10 years at Toronto Public Health, she was responsible for the Injury Prevention/Substance Abuse Prevention program and managed a major program re-design. Denise has lead a variety of provincial advocacy initiatives and has provided leadership on numerous committees and panels, including a mayor's advisory committee. Denise has been an active member of the Ontario Public Health Association, having served on the executive, and chaired Advocacy, Membership, and Alcohol Policy Committees. She is also a founding member of the Alcohol Policy Network.

In 2008, Denise was recruited to join the BC Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport. Her work involves leadership on alcohol policy issues and fostering of a "whole-of-government" approach to reduce alcohol-related harms and costs at a population level. She currently sits on the Advisory Committee for the National Alcohol Strategy.

Presentation Title: Bringing it All Together: The BC Perspective on Developing Healthy Public Policy

This presentation will reference the November 2009 report from the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences entitled "What Does it Take to Make a Healthy Province: A benchmark study of jurisdictions in Canada and around the world with the highest levels of health and the best health behaviours" in which BC is acknowledged as "the leading province in terms of overall population health and health behaviours".

This presentation aims to meet the following objectives:

- Provide an understanding of the key components of the BC approach to healthy public policy.
- Consider some of the many challenges to addressing alcohol from a healthy public policy frame.
- Encourage and facilitate the use of the ICES advice to advance alcohol on the population health agenda

*This forum involves a lot of work and effort by many people to ensure a smooth and productive day. We would like to thank the **Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion** for funding and wish to recognize the **Pan American Health Organization** for their contributions. We would also like to recognize the efforts of all the speakers and panel members. Finally, we would like to recognize the contributions and hard work of our planning committee.*